

Relative to the Firemen's Pension and Relief Fund for the City of Shreveport.

Existing law provides that if any member of the fire department, while eligible for or receiving benefits, shall die from any cause, and leave a surviving widow, the board shall direct monthly payments to be made from the fund to the widow, during the remainder of her life, and while she remains unmarried, a sum equal to 50% of a beginner fireman's pay, and that each surviving minor child under age 18 shall receive a sum equal to 17-1/2% of a beginner fireman's pay. New law retains existing law, except deletes the termination of survivor's benefits upon remarriage.

Existing law provides that the total monthly payment to be made at any time to a member's surviving widow and dependent children shall not exceed 85% of a beginner fireman's pay, provided that payment to the children shall continue after the remarriage of the widow, but not after the marriage of respective children. Existing law provides that no widow shall be entitled to, or receive survivor benefits unless she was married to such member prior to his removal from active service, and was living with him at the time of death. New law retains existing law.

New law deletes prior law which provided that the widow of a deceased member whose benefits had terminated because of her remarriage, and who later became widowed, divorced, judicially separated, or whose spouse became confined to a mental institution, could apply to the board of trustees for resumption of her benefits.

New law deletes prior law which provided that the board, after providing appropriate notice to the surviving spouse who is applying for resumption of survivor's benefits and after an informal hearing being had, was required to consider in its decision regarding the resumption of survivor's benefits, the legal status of the applicant and the causes of such status, and the financial status of the applicant to include a consideration of assets, income, and other benefits from any source.

New law deletes prior law which provided that should any surviving spouse whose benefits have been resumed again marry, her benefits shall terminate and, in the case of an applicant whose benefits have been resumed, may be reconsidered at any time by the board on motion of any interested party or upon the board's own motion.

New law also generally changes references to widow to surviving spouse.

Effective August 15, 1999.

(Amends R.S. 11:3442(8) and (10))